CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A system for marking a digital recording, wherein the digital recording includes a plurality of tracks, the system comprising:

a mechanism for dividing the digital recording into a plurality of first sections interleaved with a plurality of second sections;

a mechanism for calculating an identifier as a function of data contained in each of the plurality of first sections; and

a watermarking mechanism for watermarking each of the plurality of second sections with information related to the identifier.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the each of the plurality of first sections are interleaved in an alternating manner with each of the plurality of second sections.

3. The system of claim 1, further comprising a splitting mechanism for splitting the identifier into m parts such that each of the m parts comprises information related to the identifier.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein a set of m second sections form a group, and each second section within the group receives a unique one of the m parts of the identifier.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the identifier is calculated as a hash of the data contained in the plurality of first sections.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the digital recording includes a music recording, and the plurality of tracks include individual songs.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein a length of each section is less than a length of each track, and the number of sections is greater than the number of tracks.

8. A system for verifying a digital recording, comprising:

a mechanism for reading a plurality of first sections from the digital recording and calculating a first verification identifier from data contained in the plurality of first sections;

a mechanism for reading watermarks from each of a plurality of second sections from the digital recording;

a mechanism for determining a second verification identifier from at least one of the watermarks; and

a mechanism for comparing the first verification identifier and the second verification identifier.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the second verification identifier is determined by coalescing a set of m watermarks read from the digital recording.

10. The system of claim 8, wherein the first verification identifier is calculated as a hash of the plurality of first sections.

11. The system of claim 8, wherein the plurality of first sections and plurality of second sections are interleaved in an alternating manner.

12. The system of claim 8, further comprising a mechanism for terminating a process when the first verification identifier and the second verification identifier are unequal.

13. A program product stored on a recordable media for marking a digital recording having a plurality of tracks that, when executed, comprises:

means for dividing the digital recording into a plurality of first sections interleaved with a plurality of second sections;

means for calculating an identifier as a function of data contained in each of the plurality of first sections; and

means for watermarking each of the plurality of second sections with information related to the identifier.

14. The program product of claim 13, further comprising means for splitting the identifier into m parts such that each of the m parts comprises information related to the identifier.

15. The program product of claim 14, wherein a set of m second sections form a group, and each second section within the group is watermarked with a unique one of the m parts of the identifier.

16. The program product of claim 13, wherein the identifier is calculated as a hash of the data contained in the plurality of first sections.

17. A program product stored on a recordable media for verifying a digital recording that, when executed, comprises:

means for reading a plurality of first sections from the digital recording and calculating a first verification identifier from data contained in the plurality of first sections;

means for reading watermarks from each of a plurality of second sections from the digital recording;

means for determining a second verification identifier from at least one of the watermarks; and

means for comparing the first verification identifier and the second verification identifier.

18. The program product of claim 17, wherein the second verification identifier is determined by coalescing a set of m watermarks read from the digital recording.

19. A method for processing a digital recording, the method comprising:

marking the digital recording with the steps of:

dividing the digital recording into a plurality of first sections interleaved with a plurality of second sections;

calculating an identifier as a function of data contained in each of the plurality of first sections; and

watermarking each of the plurality of second sections with information related to the identifier.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the dividing step interleaves each of the plurality of first sections in an alternating manner with each of the plurality of second sections.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein the calculating step splits the identifier into m parts such that each of the m parts comprises information related to the identifier.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein a set of m second sections form a group, and each second section within the group is watermarked with a unique one of the m parts of the identifier.

23. The method of claim 19, wherein the identifier is calculated as a hash of the data contained in the plurality of first sections.

24. The method of claim 19, further comprising the verification steps of:

reading the plurality of first sections and calculating a first verification identifier from data contained in the plurality of first sections;

reading at least one watermark from the plurality of second sections;

determining a second verification identifier from the at least one watermark; and

comparing the first verification identifier and the second verification identifier.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the step of reading the at least one watermark reads m watermarks from a first group of second sections, and wherein the step of determining the second verification identifier coalesces the m watermarks.

26. The method of claim 24, comprising the further step of aborting processing of the digital recording when the first

verification identifier and the second verification identifier are not equal.

27. A watermarked digital recording having a plurality of tracks, comprising:

a plurality of first sections interleaved with a plurality of second sections, wherein the second sections include watermark information relating to data contained in the first sections.

28. The watermarked digital recording of claim 27, wherein the second sections are clustered into groups, and the watermark information in each group can be coalesced to generate an identifier that equals a hash of the data contained in the first sections.